

board member of the Union County Cattlemen and also served on the state board for Cattlemen.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Chuck for receiving this outstanding award. I am proud to represent him and the Union County Cattlemen in the United States Congress. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Chuck and in wishing him nothing but continued success.

CHRIS JORDAN

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Chris Jordan for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Chris Jordan is a student at Arvada West High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Chris Jordan is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Chris Jordan for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING RUTHERFORD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2018

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Rutherford Volunteer Fire Department for their 100 years of volunteer service to Rutherford, Napa County and California.

This esteemed fire department was created in 1918, along with 22 other stations in Napa County, in preparation for a potential war. It has been in service ever since, operating 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. In 1956 Napa County accepted the Rutherford Fire Department into county control and in 1986 the Rutherford Fire Department was incorporated.

Rutherford Fire Department has not only served Rutherford and Napa County. The department has also responded to numerous fires, floods and earthquakes throughout and across California. In order to adequately respond to any and every crisis, the Rutherford Fire Department has been at the forefront of training and drilling.

Rutherford Fire Department is more than just an exceptional fire department. Multiple generations of Rutherford residents have served and continue to serve our community as courageous volunteer firefighters who are

ready to defend the lives of those in the Napa Valley and throughout California. The department stands tall as one of the nine remaining volunteer departments in the Napa County and is honored to be made up of community members, for the protection of community members.

Mr. Speaker, the Rutherford Volunteer Fire Department is an essential institution. Their unparalleled commitment to protecting Rutherford and Napa County make them a model volunteer fire department. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor the Rutherford Fire Department here today.

INCREDIBLE CONTRIBUTIONS OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

HON. STEVE STIVERS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2018

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the incredible contributions of international students at our colleges and universities.

During this time of year, students all over the United States and the world are beginning to make decisions about where they will attend college. As they begin to make these decisions, I would like to express my support for international students, and the value they add to our institutions of higher education, and our country as a whole.

Nationwide, only 2 percent of U.S. students study abroad every year. This makes it even more important our colleges and universities have a diverse student body, so our students can learn about different cultures.

In my district, there are nearly 1,500 international students enrolled in both the undergraduate and graduate level at Ohio University, and over 6,000 at The Ohio State University. These students contribute to a wide variety of our academic programs, including STEM subjects. Moreover, when they return home, they become informal ambassadors when sharing their positive experiences in our country.

I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the incredible value international students add to our country.

TRIBUTE TO MARY AND ROBERT PIATT

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Mary and Robert Piatt of Glenwood, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on February 14, 2018.

Mary and Robert's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 60th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 60th year together and I wish them

many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

STEVEN CRISE-ZARATE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Steven Crise-Zarate for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

Steven Crise-Zarate is a student at North Arvada Middle School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Steven Crise-Zarate is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Steven Crise-Zarate for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

HONORING COUNCILMEMBER MARGARET FINLAY

HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2018

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the long career of public service provided by an outstanding leader in my district, Councilmember Margaret Finlay, who is ending her term as President of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG). Councilmember Finlay has ably led the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 191 cities and more than 18 million residents. Under her guidance, SCAG has undertaken important work in a variety of planning and policy initiatives that will improve Southern California now and in the future.

Councilmember Finlay has been an invaluable resource to me and my staff as a councilmember and six-term Mayor of the city of Duarte having served our region for over 28 years. She has served in many capacities as she has been elected by her peers in other cities to serve on regional, state, and national boards such as the National League of Cities, League of California Cities, Liability Trust Fund Oversight Committee, California Joint Powers Insurance Authority, Personnel Committee of the Sanitation Districts, LAFCO Representative for Los Angeles County, and the California Contract Cities Association.

I have been privileged to work directly with Councilmember Finlay on many issues affecting our community such as increasing transportation options for our residents, creating more access to our beautiful San Gabriel Mountains, and improving emergency preparedness and response. She is a leader on

advocating for additional transit, bicycle and pedestrian options to improve the daily commute of our residents. She has done exceptional work to preserve our natural resources for future generations by fighting to preserve 330 acres in the foothills. Councilmember Finlay and I recently held a first responder event together to improve wildfire and mudslide prevention and response activities in Duarte and our surrounding community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of Duarte and the many people she has impacted in the Southern California Region, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Councilmember Margaret Finlay for her service as President of the Southern California Association of Governments. I look forward to continuing to work with Councilmember Finlay to improve the lives of residents in Duarte and the San Gabriel Valley.

HONORING THE LIFE OF R.B.
"BOB" TAYLOR

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2018

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of World War II veteran, community leader, and dear friend, R.B. "Bob" Taylor who went home to be with the Lord on April 18, 2018 at the age of ninety-two.

Bob was born on October 17, 1926, in Oak Town, Indiana. He served in the United States Army 7th Infantry Division from 1944 to 1946 during the Second World War where he deployed to the South Pacific, with stints in both Okinawa and Korea.

On May 15, 1947, he married his wife of seventy-one years, the former Alice Fox. Together Mr. and Mrs. Taylor raised two daughters, Scarlet and Rhonda, and one son, Michael. The Taylor family has called the Texas Gulf Coast home for many years, having lived in the East Harris, Clearlake, and West Chambers County area since 1953. In 2001, Bob was appointed to an open seat on the City Council in Beach City, and was elected to another term in 2002. He also served as an elected Precinct Chairman for the Chambers County Republican Party. Bob Taylor was also a member and/or director of numerous community and civic organizations including: Arabian Shrine Temple, 32nd Degree Mason, Rotary Club, Lions Club, Cedar Bayou Navigation District Task Force, Bay Area Crime Stoppers, and the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. He was also a founder of both the Clear Lake Boat Parade and the Clear Lake Hydroplane Boat Races. Bob often reflected on participating in the Coast to Coast Antique Automobile Race with his son in the late 1980's. He later served as a Bayou Bowl Director, a member of the Clear Lake Chamber of Commerce, and as a Director for the Baytown West Chambers County Economic Development Corporation.

A patriot, dedicated public servant, and close friend, Bob will be missed, but his many contributions to his country, state, and community will long live on. Mr. Speaker, my prayers are with the family and numerous friends of R.B. "Bob" Taylor.

CONGRATULATING SOUTHEAST
MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERN-
MENTS (SEMCOG)

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2018

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) as it celebrates its 50th year of serving Southeast Michigan.

SEMCOG was formed 50 years ago to fill a vital need—to bring together distinct communities in Southeast Michigan, and provide a forum to help them plan and work together for the common good. The philosophy at the heart of SEMCOG is that the whole is sometimes greater than the sum of its parts, and that our region faces challenges we can only meet by working together.

In the continuing pursuit of regional coordination, business, community, and government leaders came together in the mid-1960s to form the Committee of 100. The Committee of 100 reviewed the functions of both the Regional Planning Commission and the Supervisors Inter-County Commission. In January 1968, on recommendation of the Committee of 100, the Regional Planning Commission and the Supervisors Inter-County Committee disbanded, and the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments was formed and began to respond to the need for both planning and other types of intergovernmental and regional programs.

SEMCOG's earliest years set the tone for much of the work they do today and will continue to do in the future. I've had the pleasure of seeing firsthand the growth of SEMCOG, from the days of the Committee of 100 to today.

Today SEMCOG serves 4.7 million people in the seven-county area surrounding Metropolitan Detroit. SEMCOG supports coordinated local planning with technical, data, and intergovernmental resources. The principal purpose of SEMCOG is to help local governments improve and maintain Southeast Michigan's transportation systems, environmental quality, economic interests, and infrastructure.

SEMCOG has been instrumental to our work in Congress, serving as a valuable resource to not only me and my office, but the entire Michigan delegation. A strong, collegial working relationship has been mutually beneficial to developing policy and addressing the needs of Southeast Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing SEMCOG for their steadfast commitment to their mission of addressing regional challenges and strengthening the abilities of local governments to work together.

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
YMCA OF NORTHERN UTAH

HON. JOHN R. CURTIS

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2018

Mr. CURTIS. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you today to honor the YMCA of Northern Utah, as it celebrates its 125th anniversary.

One hundred and twenty-five years ago, the YMCA opened its doors in Salt Lake City,

Utah. Since then, the YMCA has been vital in building strong kids, families, and communities. Whether it be homework support or summer camping, the Y's impact on Northern Utah has been invaluable.

The afterschool programs that the YMCA provides are priceless to its communities. The Y provides 28 afterschool programs sites across Utah, which serve over 1,350 youth. These programs help ensure that kids have a safe, instructive, and enjoyable place to go after school. This not only gives parents peace of mind about their children's safety, but also instills core values of caring, respect, honesty and responsibility in the participants of the programs.

The YMCA offers many programs that celebrate the beautiful outdoor landscapes in Utah. Utah is widely known as one of the most beautiful places to live and offers a wide variety of outdoor adventures. However, various factors can prevent our children from experiencing the beauty that our state has to offer. The Y has gone to great lengths to ensure that all children can have the opportunity to appreciate the outdoors through overnight camps, day camps, and even recess camps. In these summer programs spread throughout the state, children can meet new friends, learn new skills, connect with nature, and have fun.

On top of everything else, the YMCA also provides a "wide range of programs for adults. Courses are available for individuals learning to speak English, improve financial literacy and money management, prevent Type 2 Diabetes, and enhance fitness. These classes have been wildly successful, with some even gaining national recognition. The development of these skills has been life-changing and enriching to many across the state.

In conclusion, the services at the YMCA have been integral in making Utah one of the best places to live and raise a family. One hundred and twenty-five years later, Utah is a better place to live, with stronger communities and children, because of the YMCA. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating the YMCA of Northern Utah as it celebrates its 125 anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO LINDA AND JIM FOJE

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Linda and Jim Foje of Council Bluffs, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. They were married on February 16, 1968 at Faith Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs.

Linda and Jim's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies Iowa values. As they reflect on their 50th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 50th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.